

of a moated chateau. Instructions were issued to troops to remain away from these concrete shelters until examination could be made.

These pill boxes were formerly built by the British and taken by the Germans in their advance later. Apparently only three of the shelters, those with entrances facing in a direction parallel to the lines, had been used by the Boche. The others had entrances facing the Allied lines and were exposed to fire from this side. These were just as the British had left them and no attempt had been made to place hidden explosives in them.

Upon examination, two of the three shelters which the Boche had been using were found to be planted with explosives which were intended to be set off by any one entering the shelters. The manner of arrangement of the charges was almost identical in both cases.

The doors opened inwardly and had been left ajar about six inches and fastened with a string to the door facing to prevent opening further. Then sandbags were piled about three feet high against them on the outside so that when the string was unfastened the weight of the bags would push the door open. To the top of the door was fastened a string leading to the pin of a striker just above the door entrance. From the striker an instantaneous fuse led to a detonator placed in the corner behind the door. The opening of the door was intended to pull the pin from the striker, allowing it to fall and produce a spark of light the instantaneous fuse which would then explode the detonators and set off the charge.

The examination of the shelters was very carefully made and no object was touched until it was evident